IN THE CLAIMS:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A thin plate supporting container comprising:

a container body for housing therein a plurality of thin plates,

a lid unit for closing the container body,

slotted plates fixed on side walls facing each other in the container body for supporting the thin plates housed therein from opposing sides, and

body positioning means for positioning the whole container body, said body positioning means being fixed on the exterior of a bottom wall of the container body, and including V-shaped groove plate pieces defining V-shaped grooves, for mating with fitting projections for the positioning of the container body , said V-shaped groove plate pieces being located at three positions and respectively oriented in three different directions on the bottom wall of the container body, and supporting stands for accurately positioning and supporting the V-shaped groove plate pieces, and

wherein each of the V-shaped groove plate pieces comprises:

a frame; and

a pair of converging inclined plates having opposing, planar surfaces and depending from opposing sides of the frame and extending away from the frame to distal edges defining an opening therebetween; and

wherein each of the supporting stands comprises:

a plurality of inclination supporting plates presenting support surfaces inclined relative to the bottom wall; and

locking means, provided between the inclination supporting plates, for holding each of the V-shaped groove plate pieces on the supporting stand, the inclined support surfaces contacting and supporting the one V-shaped groove plate piece.

21. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20, wherein the V-shaped groove plate pieces are made of a material having low

surface frictional resistance.

22. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20, wherein the V-shaped groove plate pieces are detachably mounted on the supporting stands.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 ~~23~~ wherein:

the supporting stands include plural stands arranged in parallel on one ~~each~~ side of said opening and plural supporting stands arranged on a second side of said opening, opposite said one side.

25. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 24 wherein:

each supporting stand is a U-shaped plate.

26. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 24 wherein:

the supporting stands have notches for receiving the frame.

27. (Currently amended) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 ~~23~~ wherein:

the locking means ~~each support stand~~ comprises a locking projection; and

the V-shaped groove plate pieces each further comprise a locking pawl, extending from ~~the distal edge of~~ each inclined plate, for engaging and locking with the locking projection.

28. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 wherein:

plural inclination supporting plates are arranged in parallel on each of two opposing sides of a central area defined therebetween, with their inclined surfaces facing across the central area.

29. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 28 wherein:

the locking means comprises a fitting projection extending from a base in the central area, between opposing rows of parallel inclined plates, toward the one V-shaped groove plate piece, and, appended to each of inclined plates of the one V-shaped groove plate, a locking pawl arm with a distal end carrying an engaging projection, the engaging projections of the locking pawl arms cooperating to engage a head portion on a distal end of the fitting projection.

30. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 wherein:

plural inclination supporting plates are arranged in parallel on each of opposing sides of a central area defined therebetween, with their inclined surfaces facing across the central area.

31. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 30 wherein:

the locking means comprises a fitting projection extending from a base in the central area, between opposing rows of parallel inclined plates, toward the one V-shaped groove plate piece, and, appended to each of the inclined plates of the one V-shaped groove plate, a locking pawl arm with a distal end carrying an engaging projection, the engaging projections of the locking pawl arms cooperating to engage a head portion on a distal end of the fitting projection.

32. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 wherein:

the inclined surfaces of the inclination supporting plates directly contact a planar surface of each of the inclined plates.

33. (New) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 wherein:

plural inclination supporting plates are arranged in parallel on each of opposing sides of a central area defined therebetween, with their inclined surfaces facing across the central area.